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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

The last Publication Committee stated in its annual report that in case there were any further advances made during the 1920-1921 fiscal year of the Association, the proposed appropriation for the JOURNAL would be insufficient to bring out six numbers. This statement is printed on page 629 of the JOURNAL for July, 1920. At the time the report was prepared, the old Committee had already sent to press three large numbers of the JOURNAL, to be charged against the 1920-1921 budget appropriation. The Association does not make up its budget at the beginning of the fiscal year, but after the year has well advanced, something that is probably unique in financial affairs.

The result of this peculiar condition has been a deficit in the printing allowance for the current year. After the last committee's report had been written, the cost of typesetting was advanced about $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the cost of paper and presswork about $38\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Publication Committee asked the Finance Committee to decide whether to give up an attempt to issue six numbers or to print three small numbers during the rest of the fiscal year and rely upon some assistance from unexpended balances in other budget items to make up the inevitable deficit, which was foretold by the last Publication Committee but not provided for in the budget. As the Association had accepted advertising contracts based on six numbers of the JOURNAL per year, it was finally decided to issue the six numbers. Furthermore, the issues of March, May and July, 1921, which are charged against the budget submitted at this convention, have been kept small in order that the next Publication Committee need not start its work with a deficit certain to complicate its work.

During the years that some of the members of this Committee have been connected with the publication of the JOURNAL the leading items of printing expenses have been increased from 78 to 82 per cent while the budget appropriation has been increased but 35 per cent. The difference has been met to some extent by rewriting parts of the papers, rearranging tables and preparing drawings for photo-engraving in such ways as to save considerable money over the cost of printing the same matter in the form submitted by the authors. In spite of the savings thus made, it has been necessary during the last six months to drop all of those features of the JOURNAL

which were previously undertaken in an attempt to make it more than a mere filing case for Association and Section papers.

Aside from this financial aspect of the Committee's work, its most unsatisfactory feature has been the very small amount of information of particular value to the operator of the water works in our cities of small and medium size. The Committee feels that the Association's best work lies in helping this class of members, who are called upon to settle a wide range of problems, without consulting assistance in most cases. This problem has been close to the Committee's thoughts during the year and has been discussed often yet the Committee is dissatisfied with what it has accomplished in this direction. The Committee has already communicated its opinions on this subject informally to the President-elect.

The members of this Committee who have served for several years, including the Editor, feel that the time has come when new men with new ideas should take their place in developing the JOURNAL. An Association like this must move forward all the time, and progress is most certain in an organization of national scope when there is rotation in office in the important committees of an executive nature. The members of this Committee who have been serving in this capacity for some time desire in bringing their work to an end to record their appreciation of the many courtesies received from the officers of the Association and its Sections and from many individual members. Without such help they could not have carried the JOURNAL along through the period of the war and the succeeding years of high prices, when many society publications were curtailed greatly or dropped entirely. The Committee feels that the period of high prices is passing and it confidently expects a reduction will be made in printing charges during the year.

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